



**(U) SUSLAK's 'News of the World'**

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*(U//FOUO) Special U.S. Liaison Advisor-Korea (SUSLAK) organization issues newsletter*

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(S//SI) Before coming to Seoul, Korea in the summer 1996 for my first tour at CSG-USFK\*, I was told by the S2B4 managers that one of the things they wanted was information about what the J2\* was interested in. My predecessors had done a fine job in answering RFIs\* and representing SIGINT, but really hadn't let the folks back at Fort Meade know what USFK was doing.

(S//SI) So when I got to Seoul, I started sending informal daily updates to about a half-dozen folks at HQ. With a bit of irreverence, I named it "News of the World," a reference to a song by The Jam, a 1980s British New Wave band, about a particularly sleazy UK tabloid.

(S//SI) There seems to be a demand for this sort of thing, because nine years and several authors later, the "News" has grown into a rather hefty document with a worldwide circulation of more than 200 North Korean SIGINTers. The "News" has succeeded because it fills a niche. NSA has added a whole battery of formal measures, tasking vehicles, and VTCs to connect the customer requirements with the producers. However, I have found that a lot of people still want to read a single informal, easy-to-access daily e-mail that addresses the key issues facing the most important consumer of North Korean military SIGINT: the USFK J2. Lastly, there's a nuance and timeliness that you can't get from the formal vehicles NSA has available.

(S//SI) The "News" covers a broad range of items. At its core are articles from the USFK J2 Black Book (the authoritative J2 USFK daily intelligence assessment), notes from the USFK Combatant Commander's 0900 morning meeting, and commentary on what USFK J2 analysts are talking about. We also include RFIs, write-ups of conferences, VTCs and meetings we attend, administrative issues, and papers we provide USFK J2 analysts.

(S//SI) Sometimes, I'll toss out an idea designed to elicit responses from subscribers to the "News" because I try to run the publication as a two-way street. There are a lot of smart people with interesting ideas and great information in the NK SIGINT community. I want those ideas and information so I can feed them to the USFK J2 folks.

(S//SI) **Operationally, the point of the "News" is to let SIGINT producers know what the USFK J2 consumers want** so that they can better provide it. With requirements broadly written, producers have considerable discretion as to what they decide to report. The "News" has resulted in reports being written that addressed specific high-priority concerns of USFK J2 analysts that otherwise might have gone unanswered.

(S//SI) In a philosophical sense, **the "News" is also a teacher**. Reading it provides an ongoing education as to what consumers are thinking and how they think, which is especially useful for junior analysts digging away in the SIGINT trenches. Finally, there are a lot of people who just want to know the bigger intelligence picture on North Korea because they are serious professionals who care about the target.

(S//SI) Over the years, the "News" has become the day-to-day face of the CSG-USFK. From the comments I receive, folks read it and like it, although often for very different reasons. And thus, I have considered starting up a new service -- "News of the World Blog" -- but I'm not sure NSA's computer systems or philosophy is ready for such a thing. Not yet anyway.

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(U) This article is reprinted from the *Foreign Affairs Digest* July edition.

\*(U) Notes:

CSG-USFK = Cryptologic Services Group, U.S. Forces Korea

J2 = Director of Intelligence (see [an explanation](#)).

RFI = Request for Information

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